Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), being implemented in the State, also help in uplifting the rural poor above the poverty line. The Central and State Governments together had allocated Rs. 3668.55 lakh under SGSY for Jharkhand during the year 2001-02. No allocation was made for IWDP and DPAP, as these are not allocation based programmes.

Constitution of a Committee for assessment of Rural Development Schemes

†3300. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted Committee for assessment of rural development schemes being implemented in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the dates on which the said Committee/ Group made inspections togetherwith the names of the States where inspection was made and the details of shortcomings found out by it; and

(c) the necessary steps taken by Government to ensure the cent per cent utilization of the funds allocated and actually released by the Government for successful implementation of rural schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) A Performance Review Committee has been constituted for the assessment of the progress of Rural Development Schemes being implemented in various States of the country. This Committee is chaired by Secretary (RD), Ministry of Rural Development, and consists of representatives from the Ministry of Rural Development, Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Programme Implementation, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Secretary (RD) of all the States/ U.Ts. The Committee periodically reviews the performance of rural development programmes and impress upon the States to accelerate the pace of the implementation of the programmes and to effectively utilise the funds within stipulated time. However, the Committee is not required to do inspections as per the terms of reference.

Task force for generating new employment opportunities in rural areas

3301. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a task force has been constituted at the initiative of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Prime Minister with a view to creating new employment opportunities and providing employment in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) In his Budget Speech 2002-03, the Finance Minister announced to launch the Jai Prakash Rozgar Guarantee Yojana (JPRGY) to provide employment guarantee to the unemployed in the most distressed districts of the country. It was also announced to set up a Task Force, headed by the Minister of Rural Development, to design and implement a massive programme for employment generation in the districts.

Recommendations of All India Panchayat Adhyakshas Sammelan

3302. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Panchayat Adhyakshas Sammelan held in the first week of April, 2002, adopted certain specific recommendations;

(b) if so, details thereof including the State-wise number of participants, recommendations adopted;

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement above recommendations;

(d) whether there is any attempt to supersede the powers of Panchayat by any other authority;

(e) if so, details thereof;

(f) whether there is any suggestion/recommendation that an official of the rank of Collector should be CEO of a Zilla Parishad; and

(g) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An All India Panchayat Adhyakshas Sammelan was held at New Delhi on 5th and 6th April, 2002 to discuss issued in respect of revitalizing and strengthening of the Panchayati Raj System in the country. The Sammelan adopted a National Declaration indicating, *inter-alia*, that State and Union Territories would take necessary measures to ensure regular and timely Panchayat elections; devolve funds, functions and functionaries in a time-bound